

# BOARDS & COMMISSIONS CANDIDATES MEMORANDUM

## Denver LGBTQ+ Commission

To	Denver City Council
From	Sterling Simms <a href="mailto:Sterling.Simms@denvergov.org">Sterling.Simms@denvergov.org</a>
Date	5/15/2026

### BOARD PURPOSE

The **Denver LGBTQ+ Commission** partners with the community to promote social, economic, and political equality for LGBTQ residents. The Commission advises city leadership, recommends policies, and supports community organizing, education, and coalition-building to advance equity and inclusion across Denver.

### APPOINTMENT CANDIDATE PROFILES

**Term Dates:** June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2029



**Bio:**

Brandon Zelasko is the CEO of SE2, a behavior change marketing and community engagement agency. He helps organizations turn complex public health and education issues into clear campaigns that drive meaningful change. Much of his work focuses on advancing LGBTQ+ equity by developing research-driven messaging and community engagement strategies that ensure programs, services, and public policies reach and support LGBTQ+ communities. Brandon is passionate about using communication as a tool to create more inclusive systems and stronger, more connected communities. Brandon lives in the City Park neighborhood of Denver with his husband of 20+ years.

**Brandon Zelasko**

He, him, his  
White/Caucasian

Male

**Statement of Support:**

The LGBTQ Commission supports Brandon's candidacy as a new Commissioner after interviewing him and scoring his answers against its competency-based assessment rubric.

**Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:**

*Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.*

In my professional work, I regularly collaborate with state and local partners to shape strategy and messaging on complex public issues, including health care policy. These projects often involve stakeholders with different priorities (policy leaders, providers, community organizations), and the people directly impacted by the system. My role is to create space for those perspectives, identify shared goals, and translate them into clear, inclusive strategies.

For example, in health care access work, we've had to balance policy accuracy with community trust and lived experience. I approach this by listening first, asking clarifying questions, and ensuring that decisions reflect both data and real-world impact. When perspectives conflict, I focus on common ground and long-term outcomes for the community.

On a Denver Board or Commission, I would bring that same approach grounded in listening, thoughtful analysis, and a commitment to decisions that reflect and serve the full diversity of Denver residents.

*Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.*

One of the Mayoral administration's priorities that strongly aligns with my values is the goal to significantly reduce street homelessness and respond quickly to those in need. I believe housing stability is foundational to individual and community well-being.

In my work, I've seen how homelessness does not affect all groups equally. LGBTQ+ individuals — including youth — are disproportionately impacted due to factors like family rejection, discrimination, and gaps in supportive services. Addressing homelessness effectively requires not only urgency, but also an understanding of these disparities.

I'm particularly aligned with approaches that combine rapid response with tailored, community-informed solutions. Reducing homelessness at scale will require coordination across systems, strong partnerships with local organizations, and strategies that reflect the lived experiences of those most affected.

As a board or commission member, I would support efforts that are both results-driven and equity-focused, ensuring that

progress includes and benefits Denver’s most vulnerable residents.

**Reappointment? No**  
**For New Appointments:**  
 Filling an Open Seat? Yes  
 Replacing an Expiring Seat: No

**Term Number: 1**

**Appointment Process for Seat:** Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation;

**Term Dates:** June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2029



**Bio:**

Jillian is a Denver-raised research leader and currently serves as a Director of Research at a financial services technology company. Their career spans startups and civic tech, including consulting with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment during COVID-19 to strengthen the state’s case investigation and contact tracing systems. They hold a BA in Political Science and began their career in public service, working in the constituent services office of Barack Obama and later interning at the European Parliament. Though they’ve traveled extensively, Denver has always remained home. Jillian lives in Park Hill with their cat, Mulder, and their dogs, Miso and Echo.

**Statement of Support:**

The LGBTQ Commission supports Jillian’s candidacy as a new Commissioner after interviewing them and scoring their answers against its competency-based assessment rubric.

**Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:**

*Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.*

I bring decades of resilience, creative thinking both big and small and the unique ability to build coalition with even some of the most unlikely people. As a gender non-conforming human I have always had to be creative about how I move through the world, establish safety and pursue success. In my career have found myself in new positions, being the first to chart the path. I’ve had to build the plane as I flew it, as it were. I’ve learned that the trick to being successful is to invest in relationship building early on, nurture them such that they become a source of access to the people and places I would not otherwise be able to engage with on my own. I have built an entire career in management leading with my humanity, humility and curiosity. I look forward to bringing that to the commission. When I find myself in moments of disagreement,

**Jillian Berger**

They, them, theirs  
 White/Caucasian  
 Non-Binary

I focus on being effective over being right. I believe this is a skill and practice that will come in handy while being a commissioner.

*Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.*

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I am deeply committed to achieving social and economic equality, which is inextricably linked to housing stability. In Denver, LGBTQ+ residents—particularly youth and transgender individuals—disproportionately experience housing instability due to systemic discrimination and higher rates of poverty.

My goals align seamlessly with the Mayor’s 2026 Citywide Goals to deliver 2,500 affordable housing units and reduce street homelessness by 75%. By expanding affordable housing, the administration addresses a primary barrier to LGBTQ+ safety and prosperity. I am eager to ensure that Denver’s growth is inclusive and that our most vulnerable community members have a stable foundation upon which to build their lives.

**Reappointment?** No

**Term Number:** 1

**For New Appointments:**

Filling an Open Seat? Yes

Replacing an Expiring Seat: No

**Appointment Process for Seat:** Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation;

**Term Dates:** June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2029



**Bio:**

Seneca Thompson is a U.S. Navy veteran and community advocate committed to strengthening equity, access, and opportunity across Denver. After serving eight years as a Surface Warfare Officer and leading diverse teams in high-pressure environments, she continues her service locally through veteran advocacy, nonprofit leadership development, and civic engagement. Seneca is passionate about ensuring LGBTQ+ residents, particularly veterans and marginalized women, have access to safe housing, supportive resources, and inclusive public policy. She brings a collaborative leadership style, strategic problem-solving skills, and a deep belief that representation and dignity should guide every decision made on behalf of the community.

**Seneca Thompson**

**Statement of Support:**

She, her, hers

Black/African-American  
Non-Binary/Female

The LGBTQ Commission supports Seneca’s candidacy as a new Commissioner after interviewing her and scoring her answers against its competency-based assessment rubric.

**Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:**

*Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.*

During my time as a U.S. Navy Surface Warfare Officer and later as a business owner, I regularly made decisions that required balancing multiple perspectives, often under pressure. As an Engineering Division Officer, I led diverse teams with competing priorities while ensuring mission readiness and safety. I learned to actively listen, gather input from technical experts and junior personnel alike, and make informed decisions rooted in both data and impact on society.

*Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.*

The Mayor’s focus on affordable housing, equity, and inclusive communi

Cameron Hill is a longtime Denver resident and advocate committed to strengthening equity, civic participation, and opportunity for LGBTQ people and other historically marginalized communities. Originally from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Cameron moved to Denver after graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and has made the city his home ever since.

Cameron’s work has centered on building inclusive systems through education, community engagement, and public advocacy. He began his career in Denver Public Schools as a teacher at Bruce Randolph School, where he worked closely with student families, and educators to improve access and outcomes. He later led community engagement and policy advocacy efforts at Colorado Common Cause, organizing hundreds of Coloradans during the state’s redistricting process and supporting legislation to protect voters and strengthen democracy.

Today, Cameron works nationally to support LGBTQ equality through the Gill Foundation, OutGiving Network and serves in leadership and advisory roles with New Era Colorado and Colorado Common Cause. Across these roles, he has collaborated with nonprofit leaders, public officials, and community members to advance fairness, accountability, and inclusion. Cameron is proud to bring his lived experience, collaborative leadership style, and deep commitment to Denver’s LGBTQ community to public service.

ty development strongly aligns with my personal priorities for our city. Through my outreach and lived experience, I recognized critical gaps in accessible housing and supportive resources for queer women veterans, particularly women of color. While seeking community, stability, and purpose,

I found that these needs were not consistently met in spaces that mattered most.

This realization has led me to pursue the creation of an inclusive, community-centered housing model designed to foster belonging, resilience, and opportunity. My commitment reflects the Mayor’s vision of expanding equitable access to housing and strengthening underserved communities.

As a non-binary veteran and woman of color, I bring both personal insight and professional discipline to this work. I am dedicated to serving as a representative who amplifies underrepresented voices and contributes to building a more inclusive, supportive, and forward-moving Denver.

**Reappointment?** No      **Term Number:** 1

**For New Appointments:**

Filling an Open Seat? Yes

Replacing an Expiring Seat: No

**Appointment Process for Seat:** Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation;

**Term Dates:** June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2029



**Bio:**

Cam Hill is a longtime Denver resident and advocate committed to advancing equity, civic participation, and opportunity for LGBTQ+ people and other historically marginalized communities. He began his career as a teacher at Bruce Randolph School in Denver Public Schools before leading community engagement and policy advocacy efforts at Colorado Common Cause, where he organized Coloradans during redistricting and supported legislation to protect voters and strengthen democracy. Today, Cam works nationally to advance LGBTQ+ equality as Director of the Gill Foundation’s OutGiving Network. He also serves on the boards of New Era Colorado Action Fund and Colorado Common Cause. Across these roles, he collaborates with nonprofit leaders, public officials, and community members to promote inclusive policy and strengthen community voice in Denver and beyond.

**Cam Hill**

He, him, his  
White/Caucasian  
Male

**Statement of Support:**

The LGBTQ Commission supports Cam’s candidacy as a new Commissioner after interviewing him and scoring his answers against its competency-based assessment rubric.

**Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:**

*Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.*

When I moved to Denver in 2012 as a Teach For America corps member, I began teaching middle school at Bruce

Randolph School. Coming from a different background than many of my students, I quickly realized I needed to better understand the community to be effective. I spent time building relationships with students and families and learning about the Globeville-Elyria-Swansea community—its strengths, cultural assets, and the systemic challenges it faced, including housing instability, environmental hazards, and barriers faced by mixed-status and immigrant families. That experience taught me the importance of listening with humility, recognizing my own assumptions, and incorporating multiple perspectives into my work.

I would bring that same approach to the LGBTQ+ Commission by grounding my contributions in community input, engaging those most impacted, and ensuring recommendations reflect the diverse experiences of LGBTQ+ Denverites.

*Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.*

The Mayor's focus on housing affordability and reducing homelessness strongly aligns with my priorities for Denver. Having lived in the city for nearly 14 years, I have seen firsthand how rising housing costs and increasing housing instability are impacting residents and straining communities. These challenges disproportionately affect LGBTQ+ people—particularly transgender individuals, youth, and those navigating intersecting barriers related to race, income, or family rejection.

I am especially encouraged by efforts to expand affordable housing, invest in supportive services, and take a more coordinated, data-driven approach to addressing homelessness. These strategies recognize that housing is foundational to health, safety, and long-term stability. If appointed, I would be committed to supporting policies and recommendations that ensure LGBTQ+ residents are meaningfully included in these efforts and have access to safe, affirming housing and services.

**Reappointment?** No

**Term Number:** 1

**For New Appointments:**

Filling an Open Seat? Yes

Replacing an Expiring Seat: No

**Appointment Process for Seat:** Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation;



**Joshua Stephen Miller**

He, him, his  
White/Caucasian  
Male

**Bio:**

Josh is a 5th generation Denverite living in Central Park with his dog Milo. Josh’s career has spanned 20 years working in the Colorado political sphere and he’s been involved in the Denver gay community both through activism and as a drag entertainer. His hobbies include politics, world travel and spending as much time in the Colorado outdoors as he can.

**Statement of Support:**

The LGBTQ Commission supports Josh’s candidacy as a new Commissioner after interviewing him and scoring his answers against its competency-based assessment rubric.

**Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:**

*Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.*

In every role I’ve held, I’ve grown by actively listening, seeking advice, and committing to continuous learning. I’ve mediated conflicts by remaining fair and transparent, setting expectations, and using data to inform choices. I have always tried to leave whatever organization I’m serving in better condition than when I found it. Results from previous roles included increased volunteer retention, clearer performance metrics, and stronger partnerships with local agencies. On a Denver Board or Commission, I would draw on this experience—listening first, valuing advice, treating all parties equitably, and continually educating myself—to build consensus and craft policies that reflect and serve the community.

I would bring that same approach to the LGBTQ+ Commission by grounding my contributions in community input, engaging those most impacted, and ensuring recommendations reflect the diverse experiences of LGBTQ+ Denverites.

*Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.*

I am aligned and in support of the big events the Mayor is trying to secure for Denver. These include the 2028 Democratic National Convention, Future Superbowl and the Denver Summit Stadium supporting the women's soccer league. I think anytime we can highlight the greatness of Denver through big events and venues is a major win for the Mayor and our city.

**Reappointment?** No

**Term Number:** 1

**For New Appointments:**

Filling an Open Seat? Yes

Replacing an Expiring Seat: No

**Appointment Process for Seat:** Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation;

## **BOARD COMPOSITION REQUIREMENTS**

The Denver LGBTQ+ Commission shall consist of no fewer than seven (7) and no more than twenty-one (21) members. All members of the Commission (commissioners) shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by Council acting by resolution.